ISSUE 11 | 2025 | EMAG | JANUARY

SOULED Out

NOW I SEE

A PRAYER FOR 2025

THE COURAGE TO BELIEVE

WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT?

LAY YOUR BURDENS DOWN

GAME PLAN... FOR A SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR!

Ann Mainse:

THE UNEXPECTED PATH

IF YOU SUSPECT IT, REPORT IT.

0800 222 777

SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Use these signs to identify a potential victim of modern-day slavery.

CONTROLLED BY ANOTHER PERSON

They are accompanied by a controlling person, and do not speak on their own behalf, but instead defer to another person.

CONTROLLED MOVEMENT

They are transported to or from work, or live and work at the same place. They show signs that their movements are being controlled.

LACK OF EARNINGS

They are unable to keep their earnings and are forced to turn them over to another person. In many cases, the person owes a debt they are working to pay off.

LACK OF OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION

They are not in possession of their passports, identification, or legal documents.

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They are frightened to talk to outsiders and authorities since they are closely monitored and controlled by their trafficker(s). They may be fearful, anxious, depressed, overly submissive, and may avoid eye contact.

DECEIVED BY A FALSE JOB OFFER

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FEELINGS OF BEING TRAPPED

They have expressed that they are unable to leave their living or employment situation.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A warm welcome to our new writers, Datha Wilson Whitfield and Janet Perez Eckles. Thank you for your partnership in growing the Body of Christ.

We are so very honoured to host Ann Mainse on this first cover issue for 2025. Blessings dear ladies!

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"remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing, now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

ISAIAH 43:18-19

A Note from the Editor

Greetings dear readers. 2025 has finally dawned upon us! Happy and blessed new year to us all. I pray Grace and favour. Cleave closer to the Lord and draw your strength from Him. Seek the Lord and Pray God's divine grace and goodness over your family daily. Time flies and waits for no man. Do the things you are supposed to, leave nothing to chance and in all things, put God First.

Growing up, my mother taught my three siblings and I to always "Put God First." When we were in our first jobs, she would help us write a budget. The first item on the list was tithe. I grew up in a home that sowed into God's Kingdom, and today we are reaping the benefits of no lack. My mother taught us to give God our first fruits in all things, that included our time. If you were not laid up in bed, a Sunday morning was God's time and you had to be found in church, there was no time for excuses. When I look back now, I think that there is something very special in growing up disciplined. My mother always said that God is no man's debtor, and when you sow into Hs kingdom ungrudgingly, the rewards you reap will be bountiful.

I have seen these rewards in my siblings who have soared in their careers, and I have seen it in our children, who have all excelled academically. When God gave me an inspiration for a Christian Woman's magazine, I doubted. I worked in corporate accounting for 20 years; I did not have the slightest inkling of how one would put a magazine together. But when I finally started research and decided to be obedient, I saw the hand of God move in a tremendous way. Fast forward... we have finally reached 10 years this 2025. **Woman of Faith** also later paved the way for this magazine, **SOULED OUT.**

When you invest your time and resources to God, He will never forsake you. **"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand."** (Psalm37:23-24) KJV.

I am grateful to the many generous hearts who have sowed seeds into this magazine over the years. Its these seeds that you have planted, which have made it possible for us to reach a global public with two free publications. My team and I are delighted to work with a platform of dedicated and inspiring global writers.

God chose South Africa as a base to reach a global network of Christian writers. He is the God of the impossible. **"Can anything good come from Nazareth?" (John1:46)** A question raised by Nathanael in the book of John. (Nazareth was looked down upon as unfavourable.) The answer is simple, God chose His Son, the Redeemer of the world, to live in Nazareth. That was God's choice! I hope you enjoy this issue as much as I enjoyed editing it. A warm welcome to our new writers. Let's work together in 2025, in unity and strength for our Lord Jesus Christ, the benefits are endless!

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit-fruit that will last-and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you" (John15:16)

Love & Blessings

Liz

LET US PRAY
A PRAYER FOR 2025

by Heidi Gibson

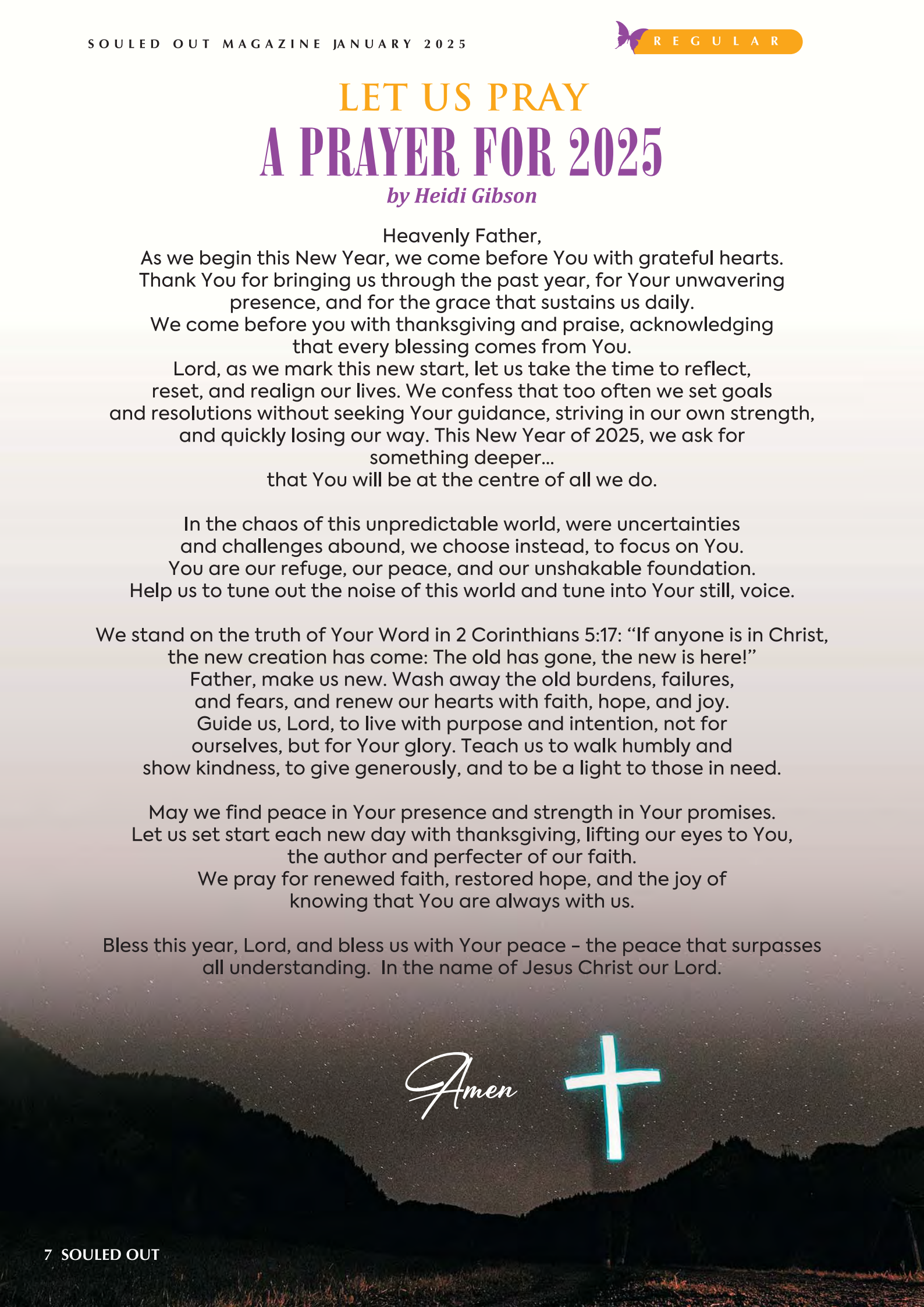
Heavenly Father,
As we begin this New Year, we come before You with grateful hearts. Thank You for bringing us through the past year, for Your unwavering presence, and for the grace that sustains us daily.
We come before you with thanksgiving and praise, acknowledging that every blessing comes from You.
Lord, as we mark this new start, let us take the time to reflect, reset, and realign our lives. We confess that too often we set goals and resolutions without seeking Your guidance, striving in our own strength, and quickly losing our way. This New Year of 2025, we ask for something deeper...
that You will be at the centre of all we do.

In the chaos of this unpredictable world, were uncertainties and challenges abound, we choose instead, to focus on You.
You are our refuge, our peace, and our unshakable foundation.
Help us to tune out the noise of this world and tune into Your still, voice.

We stand on the truth of Your Word in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"
Father, make us new. Wash away the old burdens, failures, and fears, and renew our hearts with faith, hope, and joy.
Guide us, Lord, to live with purpose and intention, not for ourselves, but for Your glory. Teach us to walk humbly and show kindness, to give generously, and to be a light to those in need.

May we find peace in Your presence and strength in Your promises.
Let us set start each new day with thanksgiving, lifting our eyes to You, the author and perfecter of our faith.
We pray for renewed faith, restored hope, and the joy of knowing that You are always with us.

Bless this year, Lord, and bless us with Your peace – the peace that surpasses all understanding. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.



SOULED Out
MAGAZINE
God's Design for Family
What will a Man Profit if he gains the whole world but loses his Own Soul?
DEVELOPING RESILIENCE in Your Child in Tough Times
Who is your Source of Supply?
Darryl & Tracy Strawberry
God Can Restore and Heal Your Imperfect Marriage!

Dear friends & family,

I trust you are enjoying our Magazines. Every issue of Woman of Faith and SOULED OUT Magazine is designed with YOU in mind. Our aim is to reach a million people around the world, and it is for this reason we have opted not to sell subscriptions but to make both out magazines available at no cost to the public.
I encourage you to go to our website and a full year's magazine is available for your perusal at your leisure. www.womanoffaith.co.za
www.souledoutmagazine.com

While our publications are free, it takes great effort and finances before it reaches you. In light of that, I am opening up an avenue for you to sow into this magazine. A once off or monthly gift of any amount will be greatly appreciated.
Please note that our appeal does not place any obligation on our readers whatsoever.

God bless you.
Editor

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Talking with Tressa

www.youtube.com/@tressalemky

Step by Step

by Tressa Lemky

As the clock struck midnight, and the first seconds of 2025 rang in, hope and anticipation for a new year filled my heart. I found myself once again, asking the Lord to lead and direct me in the coming months.

I prayed for Him to guide me as to where He wants me to go, and what He needs me to do. I said, "Lord I only want your will, not mine, because I know that if I try to direct my days with my choices and desires, I will ultimately fail to fulfill Your will for me and instead just fulfill mine."

So many times, in the past, especially when I was a new Christ follower, I never asked God for direction in my daily choices. I used to believe that whatever, "I" would choose to do, God would just follow my lead and help me along the way.

Over time, I realized that my choices usually led to situations of confusions and stress. Days of peace and contentment were rare and so I was in a state of constant instability. I have learned now that there is only one way to have peace in my life and that is by putting Jesus first each morning. Everything I need direction on, comfort in, and encouragement for, is found in Christ alone.

We must choose to take time to sit in His presence so we can get to know His heart by reading the Bible. Holy Spirit will then have the room in our hearts and minds to guide us into all truth.

Morning by morning surrender your will for His and then day by day, step by step, follow where He leads you. I know from personal experience that there is no better way to live life but with God at the centre. So, surrender and submit your will for His and be blessed with a heart filled with peace.

Psalm 37:23 "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delights in his way."

Now I See

by Janet Perez Eckles

The Hidden Treasure Within My Trials

One cold winter morning I sat on my unmade bed, my eyes swollen from the tears and sobs during the sleepless night. In a matter of eighteen months, an incurable retinal disease robbed my sight. Blindness wasn't in my plans, and my husband's announcement of his affair deepened the heartache. Questions bombarded my head—Unable to see, who would care for my three-, five- and seven-year-old sons? How can I overcome the searing rejection and the intense loneliness?

Since I had no answers, desperation prompted me to accept a friend's invitation to attend a Christian church. She guided me to the pew and sat beside me. With tears flowing, I silently begged God to grant me the miracle and give me back the normal life I once had.

But God gave me a greater miracle. "Seek me first and my righteousness," He said, "And all these things shall be added to you." Matt. 6:33.

Seek Him first? What I sought first was the healing of my retina so I could see again. I gave a long sigh. "How do I seek you, Lord, show me because I'm dying inside."

His answer came through a gift of a Bible in audio. With headset on, day after day, I listened to His Word, all about His faithfulness, His compassion, and His promises.

Into my blindness He spoke: "My Word will be a lamp to your feet and a light for your path." Psalm 119:105.

Freedom came. The eyes of my heart gained 20/20 spiritual vision for me to see my life differently--through His eyes. My future was secure. My role as a mom would be triumphant with Him as my divine companion. He would be the source of my joy and the one who made me whole.

Janet's latest book, NOW I SEE is available for purchase.

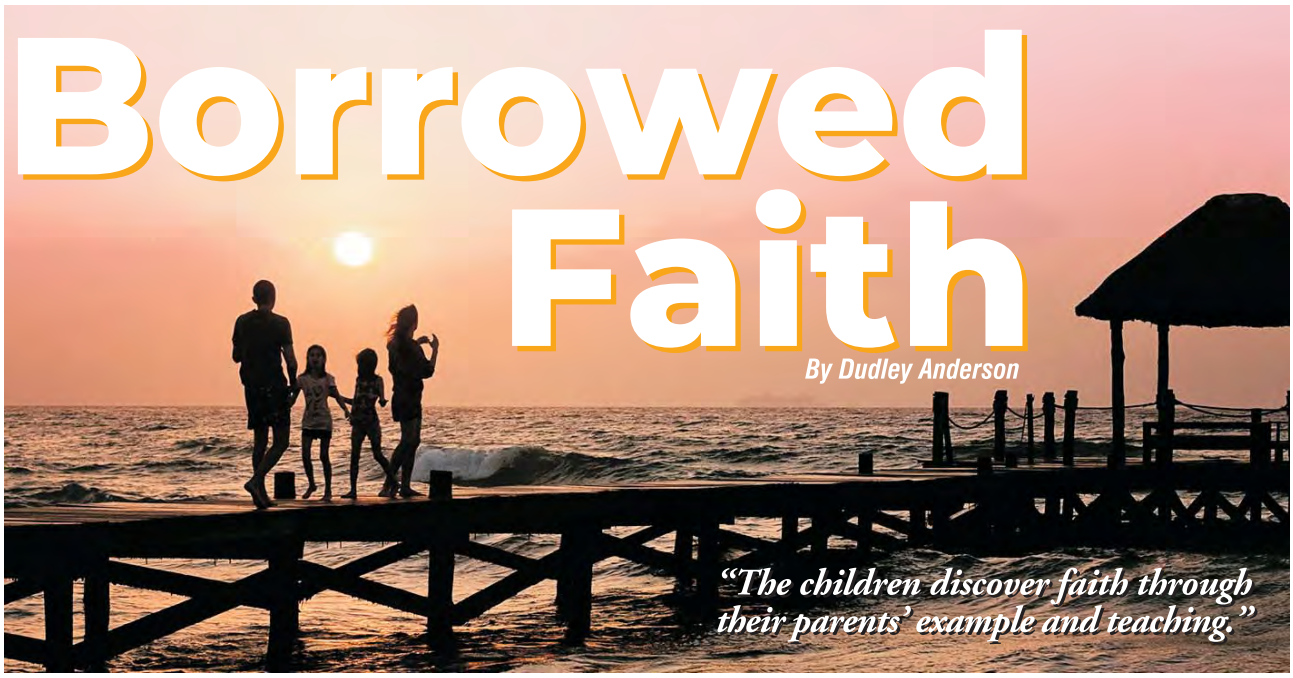
Now I see how He hears our sobs, knows our fears, wipes our tears and with the arms of His love, lifts us to triumphant victory. Through His eyes we can see the hidden treasure within our trials and the beautiful horizon of hope.

Janet Perez Eckles is an award-winning author, international speaker on resilience, and founder of JC Empowerment Ministries. She teaches thousands how to see beyond their trials and find the treasure of joy through Christ Jesus.

www.janetperezeckles.com

Borrowed Faith

By Dudley Anderson



"It is imperative that we lead our children to the place where they will acknowledge Jesus for themselves and begin trekking their own God-track by personalised faith."

Hebrews 11:6
But without faith it is impossible to please him, for he who comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him.

According to an article in Focus on the Family Bulletin, December 1988 a study of the top traits of successful families revealed certain criteria for a successful family. These include the likes of good communication, affirmation, respect, tradition and faith. These are all positive and motivational criteria. In developing a wholesome family life, it is essential to communicate well, offer respect and share responsibilities. However, of all these criteria, I believe the core measure for a successful family is sharing a Christian faith.

God loved families so much that he gave his One and only righteous Son to be a sin offering on their behalf that, if they believe in Him, they may not perish but know the promise of eternal life. We are saved by God's grace (his sending Jesus to die for our sins) and our faith in his grace.

Faith is essential for a successful family life. The children discover faith through their parents' example and teaching. However, no child will know salvation until they discover faith for themselves. To be saved, each one of us needs to personally discover the grace of God and exercise personal faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. No one can get to heaven on borrowed faith.

While young, a child is covered by his parents' faith. However, as he approaches the age of understanding he will need to discover faith for himself. Therefore, as parents, it is essential that we teach our children the word of God, for faith comes from hearing God's word. It is essential, too, that we exemplify faith to our kids. However, it is imperative that we lead our children to the place where they will acknowledge Jesus for themselves and begin trekking their own God-track by personalised faith.

IT'S ALL IN THE BIBLE. READ ALL ABOUT IT. (NKJV)
Get into the word of God and get the word of God into you!
2 Corinthians 5:21
John 3:16
Ephesians 2:8
Romans 10:17

Ann Mainse: THE UNEXPECTED PATH

When life's path takes an unexpected turn, lean into God's peace, trust in Him and receive the security of knowing that He will never leave you, nor forsake you. Canadian television host and producer Ann Mainse shares her personal Journey and testimony, defining a profound turning point in her life.

As we have entered into this new year, it's exciting to look forward with anticipation to all that God has for us. It's a time to be thankful for His blessings of the past and promises for the future.

It's been said that every past success and failure you've experienced can be a treasure trove of wisdom, if you allow it to be. And that's especially true if you've invited God to direct your path. But at times, our life's path takes an unexpected turn. The direction we thought we were going in changes, and we find ourselves in unknown territory.

That was the case for me when, at 20 years old, I fell in love and married Ron, the handsome Canadian man I met in university. Little did I know the trajectory my life would take as we said our vows on that warm July day in 1984.

marrying into the Mainse family. My future father-and mother-in-law (David and Norma-Jean Mainse) were very familiar faces to a national television audience, as they shared the Love of Jesus every day across Canada on the popular talk show, *100 Huntley Street.*

And they welcomed me into their world with open arms.

To our little family, God added a daughter and two sons, and I was quite content to stay away from the spotlight and focus all of my attention on them. It wasn't until several years later that I sensed the nudge of God's Spirit to minister alongside my husband as co-host of the daily *100 Huntley Street* programme.

Now, all these years later, God has given Ron and I a fresh vision to minister to marriages as we lead our own small charity and produce a TV program called *A Better Us* (www.aBetterUs.tv).

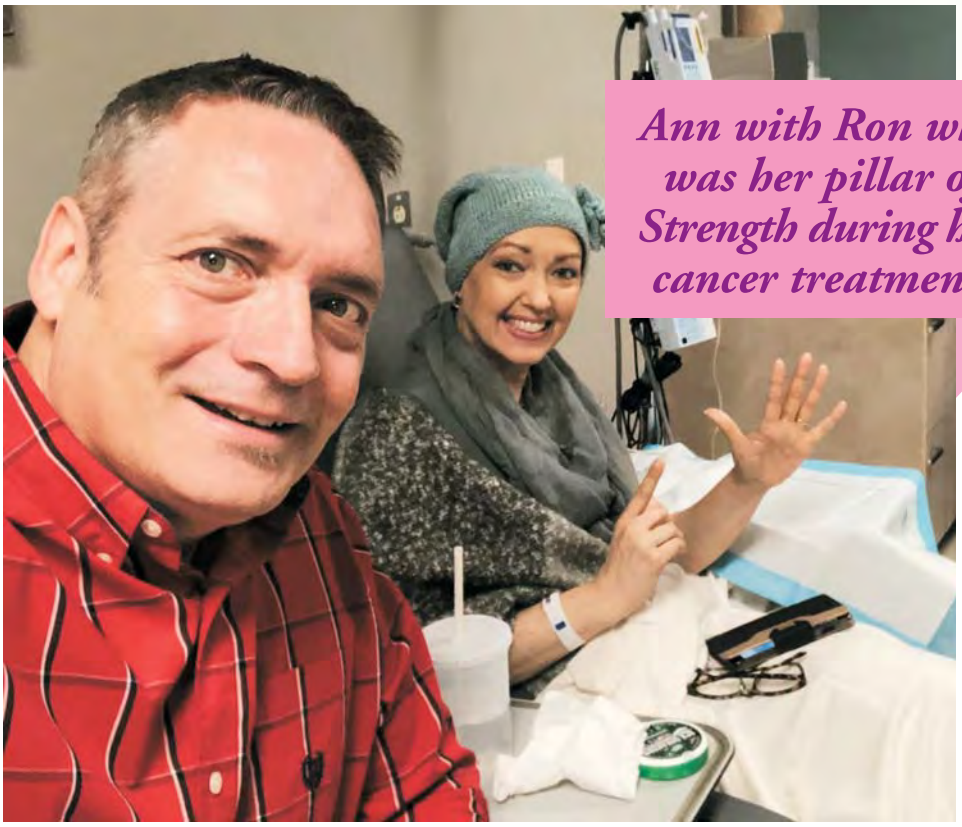
Ann with her husband Ron Mainse, on their Show Better Us.

Yes, unexpected turns are a definite part of life. Some of these are mere blips on life's radar, while others are catastrophic storms.

It is the most recent storm in my life that earns the prize as the biggest.

It was June of 2019 when I was alone in the house and the phone rang. It was my doctor - she had the results of my recent biopsy.

"I can't believe it, Ann, but cancer cells were detected."



Ann with Ron who was her pillar of Strength during her cancer treatment.

I shook my head as if to clear my thoughts. No, that couldn't be right. She kept talking.

"I'm shocked too," she said. "You've been so faithful with your mammograms and they've always been fine. But this one was different."

My head was spinning. She gave me more information before we hung up, and then I just sat.

Stunned.

I was frozen to my chair. It felt like time had stopped. The air in the room was heavy, and I found it hard to breathe.

Cancer? What? How? No one in my family has breast cancer. I don't understand.

And then, as if zapped with an electric current, I was on my feet. With more energy than I could've imagined, I began pacing through the house, crying out to God.

"What do I do, Lord? I don't know what to do! WHAT DO I DO?"

It was like my senses were in a free-fall, my arms flailing in mid-air. All alone in the house, I continued crying, praying, pleading. This was frightening, unknown territory and I needed an answer.

And that's when I saw it. It was on the wall near our front door... artwork that contains four words. Four short words. And I was drawn to them like a magnet.

Be still and know.

Oh, those four comforting words from Psalm 46... a calming reminder to be still and know that HE is God.

And a calming reminder was exactly what I needed.

It was in that moment, in the middle of a torrential rainstorm of emotions, that it happened.

Stillness.

It was a quietness unlike anything I had ever experienced in my life, and it settled over my spirit like a warm blanket.

I felt like I was cocooned in peace. And with that peace came a realization, one I would lean on countless times in the coming months.

Almighty God, the One who holds my very life in His hands, was not shocked, was not panicking.

God was still completely in control.

Even though it seemed my world was spinning out of control, I was still held in His strong, safe, loving Hands. And nothing could change that.

The heaviness lifted... and my heartbeat calmed... and my thoughts became quiet.

Once again, I could breathe.

Then I realized that I needed to share my life-altering news with my husband, who was out of town.

You never want to have these kinds of conversations over the phone. But unfortunately, we did. And for the better part of an hour, we talked and cried and prayed and cried some more. Him stuck in traffic in another city and me, at home, alone.

It was surreal.

But then at one point in the midst of it all, I said to Ron that I felt God wanted me to journal my journey, to write down what my heart was processing through the lens of God's grace. I couldn't explain it. I just knew I had to.

And that's exactly what I did.

Over the course of the next several months I often felt the need to write. Many times, I sensed God's compassionate Spirit guide my jumbled thoughts.

If you're like me, early in your journey with God you would've memorized His comforting words from Proverbs,

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding. In all of your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path." Proverbs 3:5-6

Those are amazing words. Actually, they're a promise from the heart of God. We embrace it. We are encouraged.

But then our path takes a sharp left turn. And we are perplexed.

"Umm, God... we need to talk. Ok, so You know those verses in Proverbs about You directing my path (of course You know them!) ... well, umm, how do I say this? You're not holding up Your end of the deal!

It's about this path I'm on... I know the way it should be going – straight ahead. Now, I don't know if You've noticed, but, well, we've

Regardless of the pain and trauma she endured, and the loss of her hair, Ann stood firm on God's Word and His promises.

Ann in her favourite hat during Chemo.

just taken a sharp left turn! Helloooo?!!"

Well, perhaps your conversations with God don't sound like that, but you've sensed the same patient love from Him in His response.

For even though His words weren't audible, I would know His voice anywhere...

"Oh, my dear daughter, I never promised to direct a perfectly straight path for your life. I promised to direct YOUR PATH. The path I have chosen for you. And if you'll let Me, I will journey down this road with you.

Holding you. Calming you. Reassuring you. Directing you. Because I love you.

And remember this... you are so much safer going into the deep with Me than you ever would be wading in the shallows alone."

I love how God says exactly what I need to hear.

So, it began... my journey of completely trusting God with the most devastating and frightening path of my life.

In the next few months, my path would take a painful turn.

A month after my diagnosis, my first major surgery revealed that, among other things, I required chemotherapy.

In September of that year, I continued to follow the path and had my very first chemotherapy appointment.

"They call it the Red Devil." Those were the words from the chemo nurse as she hooked up my pic line to the bright red IV bag.

The Red Devil was just one bag of chemicals that was to be injected into my arm over the next few hours, and I was bracing myself for how my body would react.

To say I was scared doesn't even scratch the surface of what I was feeling.

Petrified. Apprehensive. Dazed. Frightened. Unnerved.

Pick one. Pick a hundred. That was me.

Ron was there too, holding my hand, assuring me that we would get through this together. Always together.

While his words and his presence did bring me comfort, to be honest, they did little to touch the tsunami of emotions mounting behind my less-than-brave smile.

Watching that red liquid make its way down the tube and enter my arm, I realized that this was my battle to fight.

It was my body that was broken. It was my body that needed healing.

While we had weathered many storms over our 35 years of marriage, this was one storm I told myself I had to weather alone.

But just as quickly as that defeating thought entered my mind, another one strong-armed it out of the way.

I was NOT alone. While my husband held my hand as the chemicals entered my system, GOD was holding my heart, protecting me from a far-worse poison.

Fear can have a paralyzing effect on its prey. It looks you in the eye and stares you down, making you feel small and weak and insecure.

It makes you feel alone. Only... you're not.

As I learned that day, fear has only as much power as you give it. Like a narcissistic bully, it feeds on attention.

But you know what? So does faith.

And as I chose to focus my gaze on the power of Almighty God, fear slowly melted away. As I determined to rest in HIS all-consuming presence, anxiety and apprehension began to dissolve into peace and trust.

God's still, small Voice (the one you hear when you deliberately tune out the storm raging around you, THAT Voice)... reminded me that, despite doctors and nurses and labels and IV bags, my life was in HIS Hands. And something inside of me shifted.

Ann with Ron Mainse. Today, she is cancer free and living life to the fullest for God.

As I looked at that bulging bag of bright red liquid, the eyes of my heart chose to see something entirely different.

I could feel a blanket of calm settle in that room as I imagined that red flow usher the Blood of Jesus into my broken body, bringing healing and peace and well-being.

That changed everything.

Yes, God can use doctors and chemicals to fix what's broken in our bodies. He does it all the time. But at the end of the day, only HE can bring healing to a heart that's overwhelmed and terrified and feeling so alone.

Only He can bring true peace. Only He can make us whole. Only Him. And He does.

And throughout this journey I've needed Him to do it over and over again.

There's a verse in Isaiah that has meant so much to me over the years, when life feels scary and dark. The kind of dark where you can't see your hand in front of your face. The kind of dark your eyes never adjust to. Chilling, confusing darkness.

It's a verse that I've leaned heavily upon during this most recent storm. In Isaiah 45:3 God says to you and me,

"I will give you treasures in darkness, riches stored in secret places, so you will know I am the Lord your God."

Treasures in the darkness.

For me, one of my greatest "treasures" was an unexpected peace that surrounded me, one that, given my circumstances, made no sense.

Sleepless nights. Dog-sick days... God's peace

Laying on a cot in the ER with 104 fever and infection raging through my body... God's peace was there.

Climbing up onto the operating table (yes, I had to walk to the O.R. myself and get in position), in my heart I was actually climbing up into the safe, strong, secure arms of my Heavenly Father whom I knew would hold me through whatever was about to happen... *God's peace was there.*

Another test. Another scan. Another span of time waiting for results... God's peace was there.

Treasures in the darkness.

He knows we need them. Because there are times in that darkness when it seems like the ground all around us is shaking and our world is falling apart. And all we can see is the step we're standing on.

And that's ok. Because we're not on that step alone.

If we invite Him to, God will surround us. He will pick us up and carry us to the next step... and the next.

It's as we deliberately determine to trust God that we discover a Truth that even a deluge of uncertainty can't overwhelm.

God's perfect peace is more than an emotion. It's a fortress. It's an encampment whose banner rises high to surround us and says to those fears and thoughts outside, *"No, you can't have her. Her trust is in Me, and I will never leave her. I am her Shelter."*

And as we trust God – as we embrace that blanket of warmth on those cold, dark nights of the soul – we find that nothing can get through to us because God is our protection.

Even though this path ultimately had more twists and turns than I would've liked, it was His protection and peace that got me through it all.

In total, He carried me through three major surgeries, Eight rounds of chemotherapy (including losing all my hair, indescribable nausea and debilitating weakness), numerous ER visits and doctor's appointments, and countless needles, pain killers and prescriptions. At the end of it all, God has brought me to a place where the doctors have now declared me "cancer free."

His Hand is strong and steady. His grip is gentle and secure. He can be trusted.

And that's important to remember, especially at the beginning of a new year.

Because as He leads you down your often-unpredictable pathway, you will most likely find storm clouds. But if you look closely, you will also find the promise of God's Presence through the beauty of a rainbow. Nestled in the midst of the remnants of the storm, its vibrant colours remind you that you were never really alone.

And there, in that place of peace, you discover something even more significant.

This relationship of intimacy and trust isn't only for the dark nights of your soul. No. It is light and fresh and freedom itself, and it is beautifully woven into all of the shades of your life's tapestry. And as you willingly open up all that you are to God, He lavishly pours out all that He is into you.

And He is your foundation. And your faith in Him is unshakable.

As we have entered 2025, remember one thing...

No matter what zig-zagging turns, the path of your life may take, you need not fear.

Because the One who lovingly holds your hand is... and always will be... completely in control.

"Coffee With Him: Mornings with God on an Unexpected Journey" *is available on Amazon and through Ann's website: www.annmainse.com where there is more info on the book.*

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Christie Amoyo
LIFE OF FAITH

Game Plan...
For A Successful New Year!

Three times in the first chapter of Joshua, God tells Joshua to 'be strong and courageous' and 'be strong and VERY courageous'. Why did he tell him that? Because Joshua was headed into the Promised Land- the Land that God promised to him. In this land already lived people that did not belong there, and Joshua was going to have to act on that word and TAKE this land from them. Joshua was going to have to fight for his promise and walk out the guaranteed victory.

That may sound strange. If God promised him, and his people, this land...why would they have to fight to get it? If God gave it to them, why wouldn't the inhabitants just leave because it is not theirs? And why would these inhabitants be recorded as Giants in that land?

Gods promises to us are guaranteed because of the Word that has been spoken; they are supposed to happen in our lives. But there is an adversary that is at work that does not want you to have enough courage to step out and TAKE what is yours. He wants to make you afraid and cause you to see yourself as a victim, failure, small, and disqualified, because he knows that if this mission looks too BIG you will abort it. Fear will cause you to stop dreaming, stop asking, and stop living by faith.

In Joshua, God was giving him the promise and the plan, but what he needed Joshua to do was to take the steps and GO.

Victory is guaranteed if we do what God says, but it will come with a fight. We must walk by faith (agree with God's Word) and not by sight (where we let fear come in).

This is a new year. This year you will be Strong and Very Courageous as you walk into your Promised Land.

Click here to get a copy of **That's My House** *and more, by author Christie Amoyo.*

https://word-alive-press-bookstore.myshopify.com/collections/christie-amoyo

TRIBUTE

Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the USA, passed away at the age of 100, on 29 December. A Southern Baptist Sunday School teacher and farmer, he took on one of the world's most powerful seats from 20 January 1977 – 20 January 1981.

Before his elections, he spoke with CBN founder, Pat Robertson and said:
"My faith in Christ has grown, with age and with responsibility."

May your Faith in Christ grow, this 2025, as you open your heart to God, may Holy Spirit give you divine knowledge and revelation. May we live our lives so rooted in Christ, that regardless of any negative circumstances, disappointment, opposition, loss or pain, we shall stand firm in faith. Life and death is all part of God's plan, at the end, its not what you gained, but how did you run the race for Christ, and with Christ?

NKJV Philippians 1:21
"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

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JIMMY CARTER

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ANGEL BROWN

DAUGHTER OF THE KING

Lay Your Burdens Down

As we usher in a new year, many will be found in the gym working on fitness goals to tone up and lose weight. People set their alarms with good intentions to get to the gym, and oftentimes will push aside making time for God. It is admirable to lift weights and work towards being physically fit. But, have we picked up extra weights that have become burdens?

I am reminded in scripture that we are to strip off the heavy weight. Hebrews 12:1 (NLT) "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge cloud of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us."

As we live this life of faith, do we pick up fear or hang onto bitterness that weighs us down? Are we wearing shame like a heavy garment that slows us down? Is there a hidden sin that affects us emotionally or physically? Is there something that could be holding us back from fulfilling God's plans for our lives?

Maybe you feel burdened. Are you carrying a weight that is not yours to carry? Are you stressed out, exhausted, or overwhelmed? Are you believing for a breakthrough and trusting God to come through? Remember, Jesus came to rescue you and He already carried it for you.

Psalm 55:22, Give your burdens to the Lord, and He will carry them. He will not permit the godly to slip or fall.

You are called Sons and daughters and chosen by God. Strip every weight that would slow you down or trip you up. You are not too far gone, and you don't have to have it all together before you come to Him. God loves you deeply. He took your shame upon Himself and carried it for you. The finished work on the Cross is enough. Come, lay your burdens down at His feet. You can exchange your brokenness for His peace.

Visitation to Pastor Kuan's party

by Chong Shipei

Jesus and His angels chose to visit Pastor Kuan's Christmas party this Christmas. They arrived at his party but was unnoticed by him or any of his guests. They were invisible to all the people in the party.

Pastor Kuan served Jesus since he was a teenager. He often went hungry because he was poor and in China, especially among the house churches in villages, everyone was poor and had not much to tithe to the pastor. Still, that did not deter pastor Kuan from his call to serve Jesus as a pastor. Pastor Kuan cared more about serving Jesus than any monetary or worldly benefits that he might receive.

Pastor Kuan loved the Lord with a passion and would travel from village to village, sharing the gospel with everyone he met. He would share not just the gospel but everything he had with the people he met. He loved the Lord, but he also loved the people, whom he saw as hungry sheep, who needed to feed on the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ, and pastor Kuan was only too glad to share this bread with anybody who would show an interest to receive this free manna from heaven.

Pastor Kuan often went without food in His service to the bread of life. Even when he did have food, he would share the meagre amount of food he received with the starving

Hebrews 13:2 (NIV) says, "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

"Pastor Kuan loved the Lord with a passion and would travel from village to village, sharing the gospel with everyone he met."

population in the villages he visited. Pastor Kuan believed that as a pastor, he should not only care about the spiritual needs of his congregation but the physical needs as well. He was quick to share whatever little worldly possessions he had with his congregation and anyone who would ask from him.

Pastor Kuan was arrested several times for his service to Jesus and sent to prison many times. During his imprisonment, he not only never regretted his choice but rejoiced that he got to share the cup of suffering which Jesus partook for him when he went to die on the cross two thousand years ago. Pastor Kuan sang hymns in the prison and gladly witnessed to the other prisoners and prison guards whenever he could.

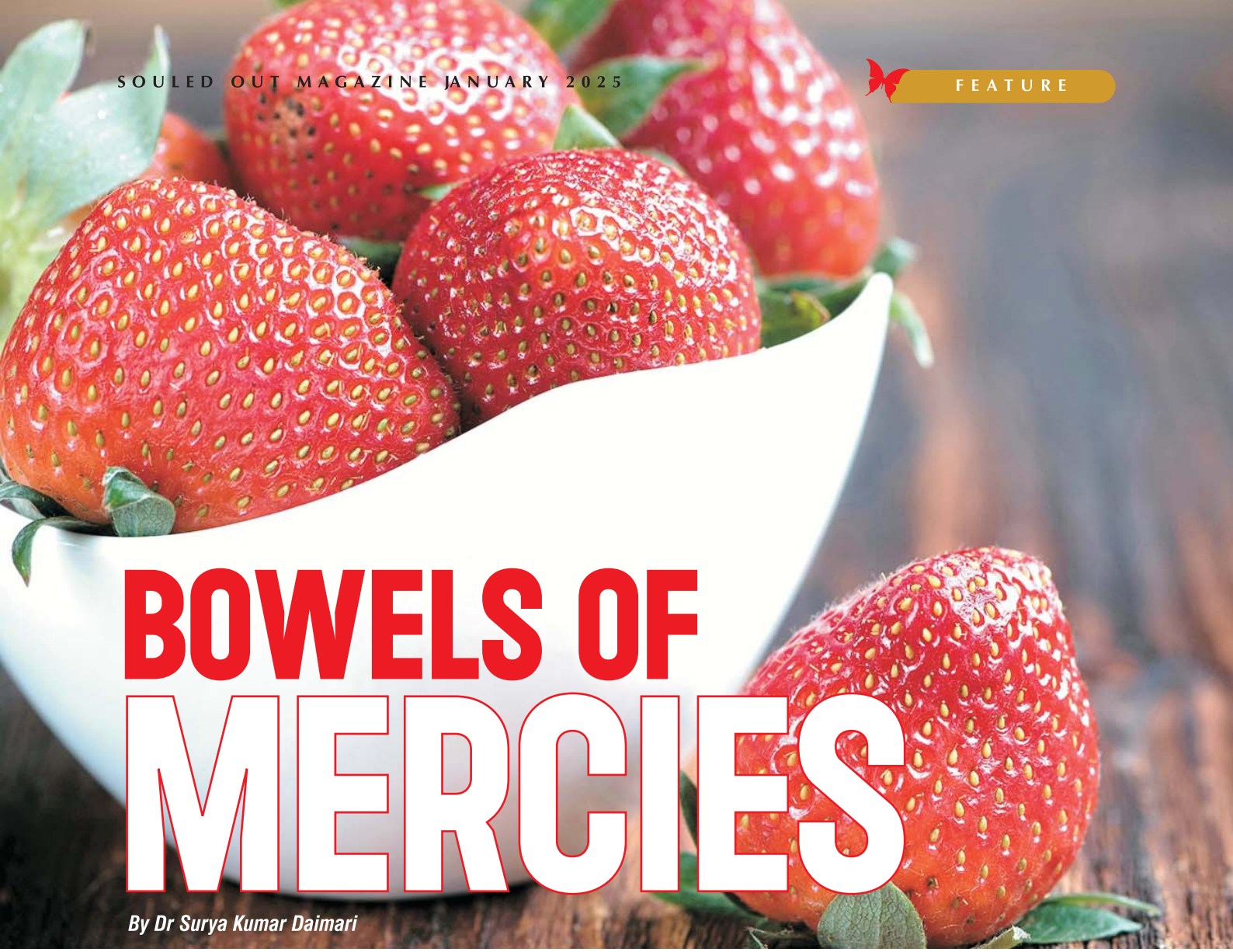
This Christmas, Pastor Kuan received an enormous amount of money from a member of his congregation and instead of spending it on himself, he chose to host a party for the poor, blind, crippled and lame. He opened his house to anyone and everyone who would attend.

So, Jesus was glad to visit this generous pastor this Christmas with his angels. Jesus was proud of the pastor and his good works, and the angels were busy recording everybody the pastor invited to his party so that his good deeds might be recorded, and he might receive one day, an abundant reward in heaven.

By inviting everyone to his party, regardless of their status, pastor Kuan had invited Jesus and his angels to his party, too. If only pastor Kuan was aware that the King of kings had chosen to visit his party, he would have more than rejoiced.

Hebrews 13:2 (NIV) says, **"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."**

“ therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”



BOWELS OF MERCIES

By Dr Surya Kumar Daimari

The Phrase, **"Bowels of Mercies....."** In Colossians 3:12 was mistakenly interpreted as **"Bowls of Mercies..."**

"Bowl" and "Bowel"- are the two different words which look alike with a slight or minimal difference in sound and spelling but with two quite different meanings. I was mistaken with the word 'Bowel' which I took for 'Bowl'. The word 'Bowl' means a round deep dish or container used to hold food or fruits or any liquid. As in verbs, 'bowl' can be used to mean throwing a ball in a correct manner in a cricket match or as in noun, it can be used in a sentence like, 'A bowl of fruit'- placed on the dinning table. I have come across some phrases or idioms such as, 'a fresh cup of Grace and a Bowl of Mercy', 'Bowl for Mercy', 'Mercy Bowl' etc. "Mercy Bowl' is a name given to an event organized to strike up a new awareness and raise charitable funds to support St. Louis Mercy Home and girls. But the interesting fact is that the phrase as **'Bowls of Mercies'** cannot be found in any modern Dictionary nor in the internet. It may be because, the use of the phrase as such could be grammatically or literally unfit for overlapping the meaning of "Bowels of Mercies..." in the Bible. However, I think, the sense is always good and can be interpreted in spiritual senses. The imagery of 'Bowl' as an illustration can bring new spiritual innovations in our life.

Now let us come the other word, **'Bowel'** used in Colossians 3:12, "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **bowels of mercies**, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering" (KJV). Interestingly, the word 'Bowel' literally refers to the innermost parts of the human body, i.e., the human intestines, the abdomen, the heart, the womb (Uterus), the place where the child is conceived. Figuratively, the word refers to mean the deepest part of something which is spiritual in essence, very compassionate and precious.

Bowels of Mercy… FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

Thus the phrase, "**The Bowels of mercies**...." in King James version, drawn from the analogy of a bowel—the physical, humanly illustration, helps us delve into the deep spiritual truths or spiritual nuggets.

Paul's letter to the Colossians was addressed to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who were at Colossae. The letter is also meant to us in this 21st century. The saints are the beloved people of God who are made holy by the blood of Christ or set apart and consecrated for the glory of God. Paul is here by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit emphasizing the fact that **the families of God should be like the 'bowels of mercies, kindness, lowliness, humility, perseverance and compassion.** Bowel is a kind of container or heart that contains all the fruits of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22, such as, love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness and self-control (cf Colossians 3:12). We are called to be the children of God and put on these spiritual clothing, the image and likeness of Jesus Himself. Even from the depth of heart, the innermost being we are asked to be always merciful and kind towards all people. This is perhaps the real calling to the families of God.

The Greek word used here is, σπλάγχνον, pronounced as splanchnon which refers to the inward affection, tender mercies—a heart in which mercy resides—a seat where the first love is conceived for a child.

The World English Bible reads this verse,

"Put on... **a heart of compassion**, kindness, lowliness, humility and perseverance."

Third Millenium Bible reads,

"Put on **hearts of mercies**, kindness....."

New American Standard Bible,

".....Put on a **heart of compassion**, kindness....."

The Webster Bible,

"Put on therefore.....bowels of mercies, kindness....."

This wonderful analogy of **"Bowels of mercies"** is full of spiritual meanings and can be a huge blessing for our own families. Young men and women should also strive for this kind of spiritual gifts for the growth of their spiritual health. This is what God desires for you and me.

Dr Surya Kumar Daimari, is a Biblical Writer. He is the Author of **'The Names of the Believers in the Bible in Types and Symbols.** He resides in Udalguri, Assam, India with his family.

Datha:

FINDING MY PURPOSE IN ENCOURAGING AND BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST

by Datha Wilson Whitfield

The Courage to Believe

I was a Southern preacher's wife and momma, juggling what felt like everything-career, motherhood, volunteering, and all the in-betweens. On the outside, it looked like I had it all together, but inside, I was hopeless, unfulfilled, and completely burnt out.

Ten years ago, in the middle of my desperation, I felt a small "nudge" in my spirit-a whisper from the Holy Spirit. It was a simple question: *Can you believe in just one thing?*

I had drifted so far from my foundation, letting go of the things that once brought me joy, peace, and true fulfillment. In that moment, I chose to cling to one thing: scripture. Though I can't even remember how I chose the verse, I felt the Holy Spirit challenging me to believe in the possibilities that could come from trusting Him.

I chose this:
"God can do anything, you know-far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!"
-Ephesians 3:20 (The Message)

It was "mustard seed faith" at best. But every day, I repeated the verse, wrote it down, and even stuck it on my bathroom mirror. Slowly, those words became more than just ink on a page. They became a promise of what was possible when I trusted God.

Instead of waking up dreading the day, I began waking up excited to spend time with Jesus, expecting Him to show up in my life.

"life is living proof of what is possible when you have the courage to believe-even just a little."

The more I leaned into Him, the more He transformed me and opened my eyes to new possibilities.

Over the past ten years, I've gone from doubt, debt, and distraction to discovering my true worth and dreaming again. I've started four businesses, founded **Wildest Dreams Events**, and launched a ministry project called **She Dwells**, which has given me the chance to lean into writing. Most importantly, I've found my purpose in encouraging and building up the body of Christ.

Today, I barely recognize the "before Datha." My life is living proof of what is possible when you have the courage to believe-even just a little.

https://www.dathawhitfieldcoaching.com/

Reigning in Your Domain

by Steven Mannering

www.streamsofrevelation.com

What will be different?

As we close off one year and move towards another, too often our thoughts are always impressed upon the things we didn't do and declaring that the new year will be different. If there is anything in life that we can be sure of, it is that there will always be change. Some good, some bad.

The Bible declares that we are a blessed people. Blessed when we get up, blessed when we lie down, and victorious in every area of life. God has made a deposit in you to rule over this coming year.

Paul says that he knows what it is to be abase and to abound, but then declares that he can do all things through Christ who strengthens him. (Phil 4:12-13) KJ. We need to have this same mindset. You will have great moments and some difficult moments in this new year, but to have victory means to remain in Christ.

Many times, we feel that if we are not seeing the success that we claimed at the beginning of the year, we have failed. I would like to ask that we write down our goals and visions, (Habakkuk 2:2) and make them plain. Then continue to stay focused on those plans so that at the end of the year, you'll look back to see how you have overcome through all seasons of the year, by putting your faith and trust in Christ Himself.

So often we want to over complicate this life. Make it simple and obey the Word of the Lord. Write it down so that you can see it every day and make it simple that you can understand it. Then when you encounter moments of struggle, remember Paul, I can do all things through Christ! This will make the difference in your new year!

It was shocking to learn that my family member's WILL had been declared invalid. This unexpected twist has left us struggling to understand the next steps for their estate.

Losing a loved one is an incredibly challenging experience and discovering that their will has been declared invalid can add a layer of complexity you may not be prepared for. If you find yourself in this situation, you're not alone. Many people face the confusion and frustration that comes when a will fails to guide the distribution of an estate.

There are various reasons why a will may be deemed invalid. Perhaps there were issues with signatures, witnesses, or even the testator's mental capacity at the time of signing. Whatever the reason, it can feel as though your loved one's wishes have been overlooked, leading to additional grief.

Without a valid will, you may find yourself navigating the complex world of intestate succession, where the Intestate Act dictates how the estate will be divided. This often results in outcomes that may be unexpected or not in line with what your loved one would have wanted. Family dynamics can quickly become strained as emotions run high, especially if the estate involves significant assets or sentimental items.

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In the midst of your grief, you may need to consult with an expert, deal with legal processes, and make difficult decisions about handling the estate. It can be exhausting both emotionally and logistically.

This experience highlights the importance of not only having a will but ensuring that it is valid and properly executed. If you're in the process of creating your own will, I encourage you to have a no commitment chat with us. Taking these steps can save your loved ones from added stress during an already difficult time and ensure that your wishes are honoured when it matters most.

With over 10 years of experience as an Estate Planning and Deceased Estate expert, I can help guide you through the intricacies of estate planning and deceased estate administration. If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to reach out to me at 060 701 6354 or email me at rivaneepillayattinc@gmail.com Let's work together to ensure your wishes are clearly defined and respected.

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